

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a circuit breaker, an arrangement for venting gas produced during an electrical interruption event, comprising:
 - a base having at least one chamber area, said base having at least one opening adjacent said at least one chamber area, said at least one opening leading to a vent chute;
 - a trip unit engaged to mate with at least a portion of said base and substantially enclosing said at least one chamber area with said base to form a cavity; and
 - a structure in said cavity adjoining and ~~adjacent to~~ said vent chute, said structure directing gas caused by said electrical interruption event generally toward said at least one opening, said structure having an edge portion angled toward said at least one opening such that during said electrical interruption event gas is directed along said angled edge portion to said vent chute to direct said gas generally away from said circuit breaker.
2. (Canceled) The arrangement of claim 1, wherein said structure has an edge portion angled toward said at least one opening such that said gas is directed along said angled edge portion to said at least one opening during said electrical interruption event.
3. (Canceled) The arrangement of claim 1, further including a trip unit base engaged to mate with at least a portion of said base and substantially enclosing said at least one chamber area with said base to form a cavity.
4. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1, wherein said trip unit includes a trip unit base having a complementary structure, said complementary structure having an edge portion angled toward said at least one opening such that said gas is directed along said

angled edge portion of said structure and said angled edge portion of said complementary structure to said at least one opening during said electrical interruption event.

5. (Original) The arrangement of claim 4, wherein said structure and said complementary structure are generally flush with one another.

6. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 1, wherein said base includes a floor, said at least one opening being positioned a distance elevated from said floor, said angled edge portion of said structure providing a continuous surface from said floor to said at least one opening.

7. (Original) The arrangement of claim 6, wherein said base further includes a second structure having a surface leading away from said floor to elevate said gas away from said floor and toward said at least one opening during said electrical interruption event.

8. (Canceled) The arrangement of claim 1, wherein said at least one opening leads to a vent chute, said vent chute having a substantially elongated shape to direct said gas generally away from said circuit breaker.

9. (Currently Amended) In a circuit breaker, an arrangement for reducing pressure inside a chamber area of said circuit breaker caused by gas formed during an electrical interruption event, comprising:

a base defining at least one chamber area, said base being coupled to an interrupter assembly such that gas produced by tripping said interrupter assembly during an electrical interruption event passes generally from a vent opening of said interrupter assembly into said at least one chamber area, said base including:

a wall portion distal the entry point of said gas from said interrupter assembly into said at least one chamber area, and

a vent chute having an opening into said at least one chamber area; and

a wall structure disposed on said base in said at least one chamber area and ~~adjacent~~ adjoining said vent chute to direct the passing gas generally away from said wall

portion and generally toward said opening of said vent chute, thereby reducing pressure in said chamber area of said circuit breaker during said electrical interruption event.

10. (Original) The arrangement of claim 9, wherein the area between said wall portion and said wall structure defines a protected area in which substantially no gas enters during said electrical interruption event.

11. (Original) The arrangement of claim 9, wherein said wall structure is generally one of V-shaped and U-shaped.

12. (Original) The arrangement of claim 9, wherein said base further includes a floor, said opening of said vent chute being positioned a distance away from said floor, the arrangement further including an approach ramp adjacent said opening, said approach ramp having a surface leading away from said floor to direct said gas generally toward said opening and away from said floor.

13. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 9, further including a trip unit having a trip unit base adapted to engage walls of said base and substantially enclose said at least one chamber area to form a cavity.

14. (Original) The arrangement of claim 13, wherein said trip unit includes a complementary wall structure positioned to oppose said wall structure such that said complementary wall structure and said wall structure are generally flush with one another.

15. (Original) The arrangement of claim 14, wherein said wall structure and said complementary wall structure operate to reduce the volume of said cavity through which said gas passes.

16. (Original) The arrangement of claim 9, wherein the presence of said wall structure in said at least one chamber area prevents physical damage to said base due to pressure that builds up in said at least one chamber area during said electrical interruption event.

17. (Original) The arrangement of claim 9, wherein said wall structure directs debris caused by an explosion of said gas generally away from said wall portion and generally toward said opening, said vent chute further directing at least some of said debris away from said circuit breaker during said electrical interruption event.

18. (Currently Amended) A circuit breaker, comprising:
a base defining at least one chamber area and including a vent chute having an opening adjacent to said at least one chamber area;
an interrupter assembly having a vent opening adjacent said at least one chamber area, said vent opening adapted to vent gas produced during an electrical interruption event generally away from said interrupter assembly and generally toward said at least one chamber area, and
said base further including at least one structure adjoining ~~adjacent~~ said vent chute in said at least one chamber area and having a surface angled with respect to a floor of said base toward said vent chute opening to direct the gas passing generally away from said interrupter assembly toward said vent chute along said surface such that the physical integrity of said base of said circuit breaker is maintained during said electrical interruption event.

19. (Previously Presented) The circuit breaker of claim 18, wherein said opening of said vent chute is elevated relative to said floor, the circuit breaker further including an approach ramp adjacent said vent chute opening, said approach ramp having a surface angled from said floor to said vent chute opening to elevate said gas generally toward said vent chute opening.

20. (Original) The circuit breaker of claim 19, wherein a cross section of said approach ramp is generally the shape of one of a triangle and a trapezoid.

21. (Currently Amended) A circuit breaker, comprising:
a base defining at least one chamber area and including first vent chute and a second vent chute;
an interrupter assembly having a vent opening adjacent said at least one chamber area, said vent opening adapted to vent gas produced during an electrical interruption event generally away from said interrupter assembly and generally toward said at least one chamber area, and
said base further including a first structure in said at least one chamber area and having a first edge angled with respect to said vent opening to direct the gas passing generally away from said interrupter assembly toward said first vent chute, said first edge adjoining ~~being adjacent to~~ said first vent chute, and a second edge angled with respect to said vent opening to direct the gas passing generally away from said interrupter assembly toward said second vent chute, said second edge being adjacent to said second vent chute, thereby reducing pressure in said chamber area of said circuit breaker during said electrical interruption event.

22. (Previously Presented) The circuit breaker of claim 21, wherein said at least one structure generally forms a triangle having two edges exposed to said gas, said gas passing along said two edges generally toward respective ones of said first and second vent chutes.

23. (Currently Amended) In a circuit breaker, an arrangement for venting gas produced during an electrical interruption event, comprising:
a base defining at least one chamber area, said base having at least one opening adjoining ~~adjacent~~ said at least one chamber area and leading to a vent chute having a vent chute opening;
means for interrupting electrical current to the electrical circuit to which said circuit breaker is connected, said means for interrupting including a vent opening leading to said at least one chamber area, said gas produced during said electrical interruption event passing through said vent opening; and

in said at least one chamber area, means, adjacent said vent chute, for directing gas produced by said electrical interruption event generally toward said vent chute opening.

24. (Original) The arrangement of claim 23, wherein said means for interrupting is an interrupter assembly.

25. (Original) The arrangement of claim 23, wherein said means for directing is a structure having at least one surface angled toward said at least one opening such that said gas is directed along said angled surface to said at least one opening during said electrical interruption event.

26. (Original) The arrangement of claim 25, wherein said structure is generally one of V-shaped and U-shaped.

27. (Original) The arrangement of claim 25, wherein said structure is an approach ramp having a cross section that is generally one of a triangle and a trapezoid, said approach ramp elevating said gas toward said at least one opening during said electrical interruption event.

28. (Original) The arrangement of claim 23, wherein said at least one opening leads to a vent chute having a substantially elongated shape to direct said gas generally away from said circuit breaker.

29. (Original) The arrangement of claim 23, wherein said means for directing further directs debris produced during said electrical interruption event away from at least one wall of said base to reduce the undesirable effects of cross-phasing.

30. (New) In a circuit breaker, an arrangement for venting gas produced during an electrical interruption event, comprising:

a base having at least one chamber area and a floor, said base having at least one opening adjacent said at least one chamber area and positioned a distance elevated from said floor, said at least one opening leading to a vent chute;

a trip unit engaged to mate with at least a portion of said base and substantially enclosing said at least one chamber area with said base to form a cavity; and

a structure in said cavity and adjacent to said vent chute, said structure directing gas caused by said electrical interruption event generally toward said at least one opening, said structure having an edge portion angled toward said at least one opening and providing a continuous surface from said floor to said at least one opening such that during said electrical interruption event gas is directed along said angled edge portion to said vent chute to direct said gas generally away from said circuit breaker.